

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 3, 16 and 17 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. A key storage device comprising:
a body comprising a landscape member configured to be placed in an exposed position in an outdoor landscape, the body having at least one slot formed on a side thereof, the slot being sized and adapted to accommodate a key therewithin; and
a strip substantially covering the opening of said slot.
2. A key storage device as in Claim 1, wherein said landscape member is a stone.
3. (Cancelled).
4. A key storage device as in Claim 1, wherein said landscape member is a nonporous material.
5. A key storage device as in Claim 1, wherein said strip is an elongate, pliant strip.
6. A key storage device as in Claim 5, wherein said strip has a longitudinal axis and first and second ends, and at least one of the ends is inclined relative to the longitudinal axis.
7. A key storage device as in Claim 5, wherein said strip is rubber.
8. A key storage device as in Claim 5, wherein said strip has ribs extending therefrom.
9. A key storage device as in Claim 1, having a single slot formed therein.
10. A key storage device as in Claim 9, wherein said slot opens to a bottom surface of said device.
11. A key storage device as in Claim 1, wherein said slot is generally semicircular in shape.
12. A method of making a key storage device comprising the steps of:
providing a body comprising an article of material suitable for use in an exposed position in an outdoor landscape;
~~forming-cutting a slot in a selected piece of material~~the body, the slot sized and adapted to accommodate a key therewithin; and
forming a closing strip adapted to substantially close said slot.

Appl. No. : 09/696,841
Filed : October 25, 2000

13. A method as in Claim 12, further comprising the steps of selecting a ~~piece of material with~~ body having a substantially smooth undersurface and forming said slot on the undersurface.

14. A method as in Claim 12, further comprising the step of selecting a desirable natural hard rock as said ~~piece of material~~ body.

15. A method as in Claim 12, wherein said strip is a pliable material adapted to fit in the slot to substantially seal the slot.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

18. (New) The key storage device of Claim 1, wherein the landscape member is chosen from the group consisting of natural stone, bricks, blocks, slate, round rock, cement blocks, paving stones and railroad ties.

19. (New) A method as in Claim 12, wherein cutting the slot comprises grinding away a portion of the body.

20. (New) A method as in Claim 19, wherein cutting the slot comprises advancing a circular rotating grinder blade into the body to a predetermined depth.

21. (New) A method as in Claim 20, wherein the depth of the slot is between about ½-2 inches.

22. (New) A method as in Claim 21, wherein the depth of the slot is between about 1 and 1½ inches.

23. (New) A method as in Claim 12, wherein the body comprises a hard block of material, and cutting the slot comprises grinding away a portion of the hard block of material.

24. (New) A method as in Claim 23, wherein the hard block of material comprises natural material.

25. (New) A method as in Claim 23, wherein the hard block of material comprises a man-made block.